

was wrong. What was wrong is that the state pays for them to go down to Beatrice, but did nothing to help them stay in their own family and the family members provide the care and take care of that child with that little bit of extra assistance to cover some of their costs. And so it made absolute sense and we developed this program and it was implemented and it worked just as we planned. So now instead of taking that retarded child and placing them in Beatrice, that child can stay home with their family and they can get a little bit of respite care and they can get a little bit of assistance to, in the home, to modify it so it can be helpful to this individual and in that way make, in those shall changes, all the difference in the world to these individuals and families. I would like very much to try and better support this program and the reason I'm raising the issue is that you have a great deal of additional monies now being freed up through the Medicaid waiver for mental retardation. It is estimated that this fiscal year, '88-89, there will be about 5.2 million additional dollars coming into the state. In fiscal year '89 it will move up to \$8.1 million. In all that money, in all that assistance now coming from the federal government that hadn't been there before it does free up some of the state obligation to hopefully cover the waiting list and do other things, but it seems to me that at least some of that money can be used to help for these retarded children in the home, in the home, so they can stay with their families and that is why I'm raising this issue. I'd like to see that at least some assistance go into this program that is not now there and I'm only asking for 120,000 more dollars. I really think it ought to have about 320,000 more dollars, but I understand at this point I'm coming in late and so I'm not going to ask for too much, but I don't think it is too much to ask for the \$120,000 to help at least start to do a better job of covering this need across the State of Nebraska. So I would ask for support for this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before going to discussion on the amendment to the amendment, I'm pleased to announce that Senator Smith has some guests under the north balcony, Jackie Nitzel and Jan Danielson from Hastings. Would you please stand and be recognized. We're pleased to have you with us. Discussion on the amendment to the amendment. Senator Vard, would you care to discuss it? Thank you. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker and members, I would rise just to point out that this is a difficult amendment to oppose. It is a